

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07268 191421Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 FEA-01 ACDA-10 IO-13 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-07
ERDA-07 /119 W

-----192155Z 085529 /12

R 191317Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3512

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 7268

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH IN
SUBJECT: INDIAN EXPRESS ON GOI NUCLEAR POLICY

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM BOMBAY MAY 18
IS REPEATED

QUOTE
UNCLAS BOMBAY 1148

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, IN
SUBJ: INDIAN EXPRESS ON GOI NUCLEAR POLICY

1. IN ITS MAY 18 LEAD EDITORIAL "ATOM FOR PEACE" THE BOMBAY EDITION OF THE INDIAN EXPRESS SAYS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS (MAY 16 PREES CONFERENCE) ON INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY "ARE A FORCEFUL ASSERTION OF INDIA'S COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY." THE POKHRAN EXPLOSION SIGNALLED INDIA'S COMING OF AGE IN ATOMIC CAPABILITY. HOWEVER, THE EXPRESS CONTINUES, IT ALSO GA E RISE TO "MISGIVINGS IN SOME QUARTERS" ABOUT INDIA'S INTENTIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER'S INDICATION THAT ANY FUTURE EXPLOSION WILL NOT BE A "HIDE AND SEEK AFFAIR" SHOULD END THESEMIS-GIVINGS AND STRENGTHEN
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INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE. THIS, ACCORDING TO THE EXPRESS, IS A GESTURE OF "HIGH STATESMANSHIP IN THE CHANGED SPHERE OF ATOMIC DIPLOMACY."

2. THE EXPRESS NOTES THAT IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS WHETHER HE WAS THINKING OF INVITING INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS TO ANY FUTURE EXPLOSION NECESSARY "FOR EXPLORING

THE SCOPE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN PEACEFUL PURSUITS." STATING THAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS ARE RELUCTANT TO HAVE FOREIGN OBSERVERS, EXPRESS CONTINUES THAT INDIA COULD GIVE A LEAD "WHICH WILL NOT BE WITHOUT ITS MORAL SIGNIFICANCE."

3. THE EXPRESS NOTES THE ARGUMENT THAT THERE IS LITTLE IF ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN EXPLOSIONS OF PNES AND FOR DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONRY. IT CONTINUES THAT "IT MAY BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED" THAT THE INDIAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY WILL HAVE TO ESTABLISH THE NECESSITY FOR ANY PNES BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER WILL SANCTION THEM.

4. EXPRESS IN ITS CONCLUSION HOWEVER CASTS SOME DOUBT ON FUTURE PNES BY NOTING THAT OTHER CONSIDERATIONS "MUST RECEIVE THE STRICTEST SCRUTINY." THE EXPRESS QUESTIONS SPECIFICALLY WHETHER INDIA CAN AFFORD THE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES TO ATOMIC TESTS AND SPACE FLIGHTS AS PURELY SCIENTIFIC PURSUITS WHEN THEY MAY HAVE NO RELEVANCE TO MORE PRESSING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OR STRATEGIC REQUIREMENTS. COURTNEY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 19-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: TECH, IN
To: STATE
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